## REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **November 19, 2003**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-22. Claims 1, 4-8, 11-15, and 18- 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Muller et al. (USPN 6,256,740, hereinafter "Muller") in view of Jagannathan et al. (USPN 5,692,193, hereinafter "Jagannathan"). Claims 2-3, 9-10, and 16-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Muller in view of Jagannathan in further view of Taylor ("Teach Yourself UNIX In A Week," hereinafter "Taylor"). Claims 1, 4-8, 11-15, and 18- 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lichtman et al. (USPN 5,819,107, hereinafter "Lichtman"), in view of Jagannathan. Claims 2, 9, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lichtman in view of Jagannathan in further view of Taylor.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

Dependent claims 6, 13, and 20 were rejected as being unpatentable over Muller in view of Jagannathan. Dependent claims 6, 13, and 20 were rejected as being unpatentable over Lichtman in view of Jagannathan.

Applicant respectfully points out that Jagannathan teaches allocating **thread control blocks**, which do not have to be globally unique, to threads in an operating system (col. 14, lines 25-53). Similarly, Lichtman teaches assigning **device drivers**, which do not have to be globally unique, to devices in a distributed computer system (see Abstract).

Furthermore, Muller teaches generating globally unique IDs by using globally unique node identifiers and locally unique data extent identifier (see Abstract and col. 5 lines 21-48). Generating globally unique IDs **at local nodes** from globally unique node identifiers is not the same as retrieving globally unique identifiers **from a centralized global allocator**.

In contrast, the present invention discloses a global block allocator that **allocates blocks of device identifiers** to a local computing system when the pool of device identifiers available to the local computing system is empty (see page 9, line 23 to page 10, line 9 of the instant application).

Allocating blocks of device identifiers to a local computing system from a global allocator is not the same as allocating thread control blocks as in Jagannathan or allocating device drivers as in Lichtman, because thread control blocks and devices drivers do not have to be globally unique.

Furthermore, generating a globally unique IDs at a local node from a globally unique node identifier as in Muller is not the same as retrieving globally unique identifiers from a global allocator as in the present invention.

There is nothing within Jagannathan, either separately or in concert with Muller and/or Lichtman, which suggests allocating blocks of device identifiers from a global allocator to a local computing system when the pool of device identifiers available to the local computing system is empty.

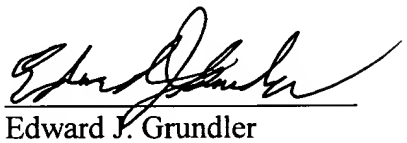
Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 8, and 15 to include the limitations of dependent claims 6, 13, and 20, respectively. Claims 6, 13, 20, and 22 have been canceled without prejudice.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 8, and 15 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-5 and 7, which depend upon claim 1, claims 9-12 and 14, which depend upon claim 8, and claims 16-19 and 21, which depend upon claim 15 are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

## CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Edward J. Grundler
Registration No. 47, 615

Date: January 6, 2004

Edward J. Grundler
PARK, VAUGHAN & FLEMING LLP
508 Second Street, Suite 201
Davis, CA 95616-4692
Tel: (530) 759-1663
FAX: (530) 759-1665